



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

KENT STATE SHOOTING

PART 3 OF 8

FILE NUMBER: 98-46479

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE CLEVELAND	OFFICE OF ORIGIN CLEVELAND	DATE 5/14/70	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/2/70 - 5/13/70
TITLE OF CASE UNSUBS; Firebombing of Army ROTC Building, Kent State University (KSU) Kent, Ohio 5/2/70		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	
		CHARACTER OF CASE SABOTAGE; SEDITION; DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY; CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 - INTERFERENCE WITH FEDERALLY PROTECTED FACILITY	

- P -

LEADS

CLEVELAND:

AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

Will continue intensive investigation to identify persons responsible for the burning of the Army ROTC Building at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
--------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------

COPIES MADE: 12 - Bureau (RM) 1 - USA, Cleveland 5 - Cleveland (98-2140) cc - AG, DAG, AAG-ISO, AAG-CO, AAG-CR, 1cc - 9040, 1cc - 9280, 1cc - White House	98-4641-114 10 MAY 27 1970 100-110
--	---

Agent	Request Recd.	Date Recd.	Date Fwd.	Date Recd.	Date Fwd.
		6-16-70			

70 JUN 17 1970

SEE ENCLOSED PAGE

CV 98-2140

JM/clo

(1)

ADMINISTRATIVE

[REDACTED]

J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Section, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., verbally authorized on May 10, 1970, the issuance of a search warrant for the off campus residence of [REDACTED] located at 230 East Main Street, Kent, Ohio. A search warrant was issued on May 10, 1970, by United States Commissioner CLIFFORD E. BRUCE, Northern District of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio, for the above residence authorizing the search for clothing, incendiary materials or other material that could be used for destructive purposes by explosion, thermal or incendiary destruction.

On May 10, 1970, the above search warrant was executed at the premises of 230 East Main Street, Kent, Ohio.

The results of this search, interviews conducted at the time of the search, and other results associated with the search will be set forth in a subsequent report. Evidence seized during the search have been forwarded to the Laboratory Division for examination.

It is noted that additional copies of this report have been designated for the Cleveland Office for review and lead purposes.

Whenever possible, signed statements were obtained from appropriate witnesses.

B4
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, CLEVELAND

7C

Report of: SA [REDACTED]
Date: MAY 14, 1970

Office: CLEVELAND

Field Office File #: 98-2140

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
Firebombing of Army ROTC Building,
Kent State University (KSU)
Kent, Ohio
May 2, 1970

Character:

SABOTAGE;
SEDITION;
~~RECENT~~ DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY;
CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1968 -
INTERFERENCE WITH FEDERALLY PROTECTED FACILITY

Synopsis:

On evening of 5/2/70, the Army ROTC building at Kent State University (KSU), Kent, Ohio, was destroyed by fire during campus disruption. Investigation was initiated by the FBI.

KSU currently has enrollment of approximately 21,000 students. It is second largest university in State of Ohio and is reportedly ranked 24th in size nationally.

Civil disorders started in the City of Kent, Ohio, during the evening of 5/1/70 when crowds gathered in the streets and went on a rampage breaking windows in downtown stores. On the evening of 5/2/70 a crowd of about 500 individuals gathered adjacent to the Army ROTC building on the KSU campus. Some members of this crowd threw rocks and debris at the building and set it on fire. Members of the crowd also threw rocks at members of the KSU campus police department and the Kent City Fire Department who were attempting to restore order and put out fire.

A diagram of area and location of the KSU ROTC building and photographs depicting the fire and remains of the building are set forth.

[REDACTED], ROTC, KSU, advised the burned building was property of KSU, but that it contained Government property. Loss of Government property in the fire was estimated at \$35,000. Although the building was not owned by the Federal Government, it did serve as a National Defense facility, used primarily by ROTC. [REDACTED] maintained physical control of the building and indicated that signs were on the building identifying it as a military facility.

Four ROTC cadets were interviewed and could provide no information concerning identity of persons who started fire.

[REDACTED] a student eye witness, identified an individual in a photograph of a group participating in a demonstration on the KSU campus during 4/70 as being one individual who threw a gas-soaked rag in ROTC building at time of fire. However, [REDACTED] was unable to furnish the name of this person. 21 other students and 3 staff members present at the fire were unable to identify persons responsible for the fire.

Six firemen, six policemen, Commander of State Police, Fire Chief and Chief of KSU Police Department interviewed and none of these individuals could identify persons who started the fire.

TERRENCE OBLANDER, reporter, Record Courier newspaper, was eye witness to incident. He indicated that he was warned by an unidentified individual not to take any pictures during the fire or he would be killed. OBLANDER has identified an unknown individual from photographs as a person who set fire to curtains in ROTC building during the incident.

Former student [REDACTED] an eye witness to the burning, described an individual who was one of the crowd leaders and identified this individual as being a member of the "Guerilla Theater Group" on the KSU campus.

The following campus groups have been identified as being opposed to the existence of ROTC on KSU campus: New Universal Conference, Young Socialist Alliance, Student Mobilization Committee, and Students for a Democratic Society.

During the evening of 5/2/70, following the burning of the ROTC building crowds of students continued to roam KSU campus. However, there were no additional serious acts of violence.

CV 98-2110

Disruptions continued on the evening of 5/3/70. However, units from the Ohio National Guard and members of the campus police department and OSHP maintained control of situation. At about noon on 5/4/70, a confrontation between demonstrators and the Ohio National Guard occurred on the KSU campus and 4 KSU students were killed and several students injured as a result of this incident.

[REDACTED] KSU student, developed as possible suspect regarding ROTC burning. Persons present at his off-campus residence during evening of 5/2/70 were interviewed. No information was developed to substantiate [REDACTED] participation in burning. [REDACTED] resides in Kent with six other males and whereabouts of two of these individuals is undetermined. Information was developed four persons allegedly responsible for the fire came to [REDACTED] residence following fire. Witness at [REDACTED] residence evening of 5/2/70, indicated some occupants were pleased with the burning. A former roommate of [REDACTED] is a friend of JEFFREY MILLER, one of the four KSU students killed during disruptions on 5/4/70.

On 5/10/70, Special Agents of the FBI observed an individual in Kent, Ohio, who closely resembled the aforementioned unidentified subject, who was pointed out by eyewitness [REDACTED] in a group photograph. A surveillance of this individual was initiated in order to identify him. This surveillance and subsequent inquiries indicated that this individual's name was [REDACTED] is son of [REDACTED] Ohio.

[REDACTED] advised on 5/11/70, that [REDACTED] was formerly in the United States Armed Forces and has reportedly attempted suicide on one occasion. [REDACTED] also indicated that [REDACTED] had received psychiatric treatment. According to [REDACTED] at some time in the past, [REDACTED] was allegedly affiliated with a cult in Santa Barbara, California. [REDACTED] described [REDACTED] as being white, male, [REDACTED] born 5/6/42.

During the aforementioned surveillance of [REDACTED] on 5/10/70, he was observed entering the College Towers Apartments in Kent, Ohio. A Special Agent of the

CV 98-2140

FBI contacted [REDACTED] who was on duty on 5/10/70 in the vicinity of the College Towers Apartments when [REDACTED] entered. [REDACTED] acknowledged that he saw [REDACTED] enter the building on 5/10/70. [REDACTED] initially indicated that he knew [REDACTED] only as [REDACTED]. However, he later advised he recalled [REDACTED] last name was [REDACTED].

The group photograph that [REDACTED] identified as containing an individual who was involved in the burning of the ROTC Building, was displayed to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated that the unknown subject in the photograph, which was previously pointed out by [REDACTED], was identical with the individual he knows as [REDACTED].

- P -

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
I. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS.....	6
A. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND PERTINENT BACKGROUND ON KENT STATE UNIVERSITY (KSU).....	7
B. SUMMARY OF EVENTS.....	9
II. PRE-INCIDENT ACTIVITIES.....	17
III. PHYSICAL SCENE.....	75
IV. BURNING OF THE ROTC BUILDING.....	89
A. INTERVIEWS WITH ROTC OFFICIALS.....	90
B. INTERVIEWS WITH ROTC CADETS.....	102
C. INTERVIEWS WITH KSU STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE KSU STAFF.....	113
D. INTERVIEWS WITH POLICE AND FIREMEN.....	188
E. INTERVIEWS OF NEWS MEDIA.....	227
F. INTERVIEWS WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS.....	235
V. CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES.....	262
VI. POST-INCIDENT ACTIVITIES.....	307
VII. INTERVIEWS TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BURNING OF THE ROTC BUILDING.....	353

CV 98-2140

DETAILS:

At about 8:30 PM on May 2, 1970, the Kent State University (KSU) Campus Police Department telephonically contacted a Special Agent of the Akron, Ohio Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to advise that the Army ROTC Building at KSU had been set on fire. This Special Agent proceeded to the KSU campus and effected liaison with DONALD SCHWARTZMILLER, Chief of the Campus Police Department. At approximately midnight on May 2, 1970, Chief SCHWARTZMILLER indicated that the ROTC Building had been completely destroyed by the fire.

Investigation in this matter was initiated by the FBI. Assistant Attorney General J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Internal Security Division, Department of Justice, on May 4, 1970, advised that the FBI should proceed to investigate the destruction of the ROTC facility under the Sedition Statute, Section 2383, Title 18; Civil Rights Act, Section 245, Title 18; as well as under the Sabotage Statute, Section 2153, Title 18.

I. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

I. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
A. GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND
PERTINENT BACKGROUND ON
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY (KSU)

**GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND PERTINENT
BACKGROUND OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY (KSU)**

Kent State University (KSU) was founded in 1910 and is located in Portage County, Ohio, approximately 60 miles east of Cleveland and 40 miles west of Youngstown, Ohio. The present enrollment is in the vicinity of 21,000 students on the Kent campus with an additional student body of 8,000 located in nearby academic centers in Northeastern Ohio. Student residents live in halls on campus house 3,678 men and 4,913 women. Other students live in fraternity and sorority houses, as well as in private rental facilities. Married students live in campus facilities and at private residences off campus. The faculty consists of 1,174 instructors. Kent is the second largest university in the State of Ohio and reportedly ranks 24th nationally.

The current President is Dr. ROBERT I. WHITE, who was appointed the 6th President on October 25, 1963. Dr. WHITE received a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in 1921 and Doctor of Philosophy in 1945. He first arrived on the KSU campus in 1946 as Dean of the College of Education. Dr. WHITE is in his early 60s.

I. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS
B. SUMMARY OF EVENTS

**FRIDAY
MAY 1, 1970**

At about 12:00 noon on May 1, 1970, a rally was held on the Kent State University (KSU) Campus by a group of individuals, reportedly students, who were protesting the United States involvement in Cambodia. An article appearing in the "Akron Beacon Journal," an Akron, Ohio, daily newspaper, on May 10, 1970, Page A10, stated that at the time of this rally

"About 500 heard graduate student STEVEN SHAROFF say 'NIXON killed the constitution last night by entering undeclared war in Cambodia. It is dead and we are going to bury it.'

Three hours later Black United Students held another demonstration that drew 350, including 47 black students. Demands for more black programs and enrollments were read."

Shortly before midnight on May 1, 1970, approximately 400 to 500 individuals reportedly high school and Kent State University students began a rampage through downtown Kent, Ohio. The rampage resulted in the breaking of numerous windows in the downtown Kent business area of North Water Street and East Main Street. The individuals in this group also threw rocks at passing vehicles.

As a result of this rampage the Portage County Sheriff's Office, the Kent Police Department and the Stow, Ohio, Police Department were called out and arrested fourteen individuals. The ages of these arrestees ranged from eighteen to twenty-three. During the rampage about four law enforcement officers were injured by rocks that were thrown but none required hospitalization. A representative from the Ohio National Guard (ONG) unit in Akron, Ohio, was present as an observer on May 1, 1970; but the ONG was not mobilized. The Mayor of the city of Kent later estimated the damage resulting from this incident on May 1, 1970, as \$50,000 to the businesses in downtown Kent, Ohio.

The Mayor advised that upon being advised of the situation on the evening of May 1, 1970, he immediately notified state officials in Columbus, Ohio (capital of the State of Ohio), of the situation in the city of Kent. The Mayor also advised that the streets were cleared and a curfew was imposed beginning at 12:30 A.M., Saturday morning, May 2, 1970. The Mayor and the Chief of Police of Kent, Ohio, imposed an 8:00 P.M. to dawn curfew for the rest of the weekend.

**SATURDAY
MAY 2, 1970**

The Mayor of Kent advised that "reports reaching the Office of Mayor through the day on Saturday indicated the condition was worsening and at about 5:00 P.M. he again telephoned Columbus and this time requested National Guard troops to aid local officials in the protection of life and property of the residents of the city of Kent. On Saturday, May 2, 1970, Ohio Governor RHODES authorized the use of the Ohio National Guard in the city of Kent. The troops began arriving shortly after 7:00 P.M."

At approximately 7:34 P.M. on May 2, 1970, about 600 KSU students began to assemble on the campus adjacent to the Army Reserve Officers Training Course (ROTC) building. The crowd began yelling and shouting; and at about 8:10 P.M., they began to throw rocks and other objects at the ROTC building. Many windows on the north side of the ROTC building were broken by students.

The crowd had also started a fire where they were gathering and individuals from the crowd attempted to carry fire flares to the ROTC building. It was reported that someone from the crowd also threw what appeared to be a gasoline-soaked rag through a window of the ROTC building. A fire soon developed within the ROTC building and the Kent, Ohio, Fire Department was summoned. When fire trucks arrived, some of the students pulled hoses from the trucks and cut holes in them; and some students also took a hose away from a fireman who was attempting to put out the fire. The firemen were forced to retreat from the area and about 25 KSU Campus Police officers were called to the area to attempt to control the crowd. The crowd began throwing rocks at the officers and four officers were injured, none seriously. The crowd then

began to charge the officers after they had attempted to disperse the crowd with tear gas. Some of the students retreated, and some other students started another fire in a wooden frame building used as the archers supply building; however, some other individuals extinguished the fire.

At about 10:00 P.M. on May 2, 1970, the ROTC building began to burn out of control. The campus officers moved back from the building for safety reasons since ROTC ammunition was contained within the building. At this time, a crowd of about 200 students gathered and again threw rocks at the officers. This crowd was dispersed again with the use of tear gas.

The Kent Fire Department returned to the scene at about 10:20 P.M. but were unable to extinguish the fire in the ROTC building; however, they were able to keep the fire from spreading to adjacent wooden buildings.

Between 10:00 and 10:30 P.M. on May 2, 1970, approximately 450 men of the 145th Infantry Division of the U.S. National Guard, officers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Portage County Sheriff's Office began arriving on the KSU campus and were subsequently deployed around the area of the ROTC building. The U.S. National Guard utilized tear gas at this point to disperse the crowd. The large crowd of students broke up into small bands and started to roam the campus. The U.S. National Guard organized patrols around the campus and as of 3:00 A.M. on May 3, 1970, the campus activity was quiet.

The Mayor of Kent also stated "another rampage of the downtown area was prevented on Saturday night when the National Guard, backed by local law enforcement officers, marched shoulder to shoulder on East Main Street at the intersection of Water Street and East Main Street. At this time the students were again advised of the curfew regulations in the city which forbade vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the city of Kent. At this time, there was no observance of the curfew on the KSU campus. The town remained quiet through Sunday, and again Sunday night another march on the city was repelled by sufficient members of the U.S. National Guard and local law enforcement officers."

SUNDAY
MAY 3, 1970

On May 3, 1970, the U.S. National Guard was made aware of the potential emergency situations which existed on the campus of KSU.

which resulted in bringing members of the 107th Armored Cavalry of the ONG to the KSU campus. This resulted in an increase of ONG forces of approximately 400 men and brought the total number of ONG troops on the KSU campus to approximately 850.

On the evening on May 3, 1970, at about 8:15 P.M. a group of approximately 250 KSU students assembled on the "Commons Field" which is adjacent to the campus ROTC facilities. At about 9:15 P.M. the KSU Police read the Riot Act to the crowd and they were ordered to disperse in five minutes or be arrested. The crowd moved off campus into downtown Kent. The group increased to an estimated number of about 2,000 individuals and were escorted by the ONG patrols. The group then broke up into smaller bands containing anywhere from 20 to 200 students. The smaller groups returned to the campus, and one band broke into the campus library. The individuals were contained in this building by the KSU police and the ONG; however, they were given, at 10:00 P.M., permission to leave the building without being arrested.

Other groups roamed the campus and broke windows in university buildings. Tear gas was used intermittently throughout the night to disperse the crowds. A curfew was imposed on the campus at about 11:00 P.M. but was not enforced until 11:30 P.M. following a thirty-minute grace period.

The ONG, KSU Police, and about twenty officers from the Ohio State Patrol policed the campus; and the ONG instituted perimeter and internal mobile patrols and helicopter patrols and assigned stationary units to protect water and electrical facilities and other physical plants on the campus.

The patrols by the above-mentioned agencies kept the student groups moving and effectively protected campus facilities from damage with the exception of some broken windows.

On May 3, 1970, nine students were arrested on campus and charged with curfew violation or failure to disperse. There were also 54 arrests in the city of Kent mainly regarding violations of the curfew ordinance.

Three small fires were reported but none resulted in any damage. One was in downtown Kent, Ohio; and the others were in the parking lot and a dormitory on the campus. The city of Kent and the KSU campus became relatively calm at about 1:00 A.M. on May 4, 1970

MONDAY

MAY 4, 1970

On May 4, 1970, the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct investigation regarding the fire bombing of the KSU ROTC building on May 2, 1970, regarding possible violations of Federal statutes relating to Sabotage, Sedition and Civil Rights in Federally Protected Activity.

At about 10:30 A.M. on May 4, 1970, a crowd began gathering in the Commons area at KSU which soon numbered 900 to 1,000 people. The focal point of the rally was at a banner erected in the Southeast end of the Commons area which was rung to attract students. The ONG had established a line at the Northwest end of the Commons area to protect the remainder of the ROTC building. An ONG Jeep was driven near the crowd and orders were given to the crowd through the use of a loudspeaker to disperse. These orders were met with the response of hurled bricks and stones and the crowd failed to disperse.

The ONG then launched tear gas grenades into the crowd; however, members of the crowd, some of whom were equipped with gas masks, threw some of the tear gas grenades back at the ONG. The ONG then started to push towards the students in an attempt to disperse them. The ONG pushed the crowd from the Commons area up over the hill located between Taylor and Johnson Halls. The ONG troops continued over the hill and pushed the crowd to a practice football field area where the ONG reportedly ran out of tear gas. The ONG then retreated back up the hill between Taylor and Johnson Halls with the crowd following. The crowd was chanting and throwing bricks and stones and other objects at the ONG and started to surround the ONG troops. At the crest of the hill, the ONG turned and fired gunshots to disperse the crowd. The crowd then dispersed and the following individuals were found to have been killed by gunshots, which were estimated to have been fired at about 12:30 P.M. on May 4, 1970:

ALLISON KRAUSE

JEFFREY MILLER

WILLIAM SCHROEDER

SANDRA LEE SCHEUER

The following individuals were also originally reported to have been treated for gunshot wounds suffered during the same shooting incident:

DEAN KAHLER

ALAN KANFORA

JOSEPH LEWIS

ROBERT STAMPS

JOHN CLEARY

THOMAS GRACE

DOUGLAS RENTMORE

DONALD MCKENZIE

[REDACTED]

JAMES RUSSELL

All of these individuals were reported to be KSU students.

[REDACTED] It was later determined through her own admission that [REDACTED] was not wounded by gunfire. She advised she had not taken part in the demonstrations but was in the area on the day of the shooting and became frightened in view of the volume of the crowd. She turned to run and a pencil protruded through her purse and wounded her in the leg. She advised this wound in the leg was the only wound she received during the incident.

On the evening of May 4, 1970, an injunction was issued by the Portage County Court of Common Pleas, Ravenna, Ohio which listed the defendants as KSU President ROBERT L. WHITE, the KSU Board of Trustees and John Doe Students. The injunction officially closed KSU as of 12:00 noon on May 5, 1970 with its reopening based on the judge's decision that order had been restored.

15

KSU has remained closed since that time. Members of the ONS remained on the KSU campus until May 8, 1970, to assist in the security of the campus.

At about 11:00 A.M. on May 5, 1970, Assistant Attorney General JERRIS LEONARD, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, requested the FBI to conduct an investigation into the shootings that occurred at KSU on May 4, 1970.